

Year 6: Let's Learn About... Hola Mexico!

Autumn 1



Mexico is located in the south of the continent of North America. It has a diverse landscape that includes mountains, rainforests and deserts. This means that its climate is very varied and there are a wide range of plants and animals found there. Some people live in rural communities there and others live in large cities.



Key Locations and Landmarks

Mexico City

The capital city of Mexico which is home to around 9 million people



Chihuahuan Desert

One of the largest deserts in North America where summers are extremely hot and there is little rainfall



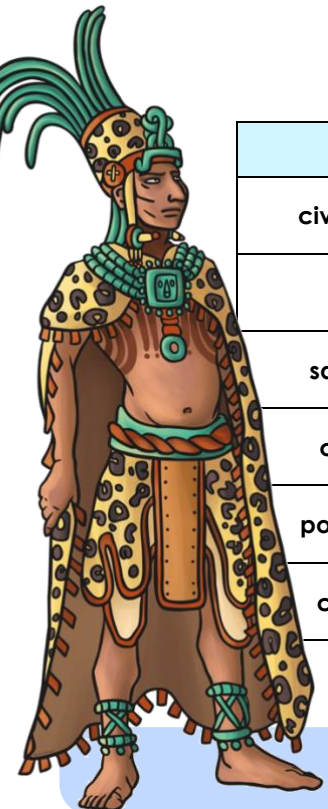
El Castillo

A Mayan step-pyramid at the centre of the ancient city of Chichen Itza in Mexico



Geographical Vocabulary

equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the earth, between the northern and southern hemispheres, halfway between the North and South Poles	indigenous	People, plants or animals that originated in a place
desert	A waterless area of land with little vegetation	active volcano	They have a recent history of eruption
climate	The weather in a particular place over a period of time	dormant volcano	They have not erupted for a very long time but may erupt in the future
biome	Regions of the world with a similar climate that include certain types of living things	extinct volcano	They not expected to erupt in the future



Key Vocabulary

civilisation	A well-organised and developed society
deity	A god or goddess
sacrifice	A ritual in which people offered themselves or parts of themselves to the gods
cacao	The seeds that are the source of cocoa and chocolate
pok-a-tok	A ball game played by the Ancient Maya where the leader of the losing team was killed
cenote	A natural underground water source that exists in Yucatan, Mexico

Key Questions

Who were the Maya?

The Maya were a group of indigenous people who lived in Mexico and other parts of Central America over 3000 years ago

What do we use from the Mayan Civilisation today?

The Maya were experts in farming, pottery, writing and maths. They also created a complex calendar based on their understanding of maths and astronomy

What did the Mayan people do for fun?

Mayans enjoyed religious ceremonies where they played music, danced and played ball games

What did the Maya believe in?

Religion featured strongly in Mayan life and they worshipped nature gods (such as the god of sun) and engaged in rituals of human sacrifice

What was happening in Britain?

6000 – 800BCE
Bronze Age

800BCE – 43CE
Iron Age

43CE – 410CE
Romans

800 – 1066CE
Vikings

Historical Timeline of the Ancient Maya

3114 BCE	The Maya calendar begins
1000 BCE	Maya settlements develop
750 BCE	Large stone structures are built in Maya cities
600 BCE	The Maya create a settlement at Tikal that later becomes a major city
300 BCE	The Maya begin to use a monarchy government and develop a writing system known as glyphs
100 BCE	The largest known ancient city in the Americas, Teotihuacan, is founded in the Valley of Mexico
250 CE	The Maya become one of the most significant civilisations. They dominate Central America
900 CE	The Maya civilisation begins to mysteriously decline. People begin to live in smaller villages and abandon the great Maya cities
1200 CE	The Maya abandon their northern cities
1400 CE	The surviving Maya suffer a period of warfare, natural disasters and disease
1500 CE	Spanish explorers take land and wealth from the remaining Maya

